

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-18 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 8 and 15 being the independent claims. Claims 1, 8 and 15 are sought to be amended to clarify the subject matter recited therein, and these amendments are not intended to narrow the claims. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has maintained the rejection of claims 1-18 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,289,398 to Stallmo *et al.* (hereinafter, "Stallmo"). Based on the foregoing claim amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 1, as currently amended, recites:

A configurable Redundant Array of Independent Disks (RAID) subsystem, comprising:

a user data array accessible to a user application via a block input/output (I/O) path, the block I/O path comprising one or more programs configured to interface the user data array to the user application; and

a configuration array accessible to a configuration application via the same block I/O path.

Stallmo does not teach or suggest each of the foregoing features. For example, Stallmo does not teach both "a user data array accessible to a user application via a block input/output (I/O) path, the block I/O path comprising one or more programs configured to interface the user data array to the user application" and "a configuration array accessible to a configuration application via the same block I/O path."

Because Stallmo does not teach or suggest each and every element of claim 1, it cannot anticipate that claim. Accordingly, the Examiner's rejection of claim 1 is traversed and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn. Furthermore, since each of claims 2-7 depend from claim 1 (and therefore include each and every feature of claim 1), Stallmo does not teach or suggest every feature of each of those claims. Therefore, Applicant also respectfully requests that the Examiner's rejection of claims 2-7 be withdrawn in light of the remarks made above.

Claim 8, as currently amended, recites:

A method for configuring a Redundant Array of Independent Disks (RAID) subsystem, comprising:

processing user data access commands executed by a user application in a user data array of the RAID subsystem accessible to the user application by a block input/output (I/O) path, the block I/O path comprising one or more programs configured to interface the user data array to the user application; and

processing configuration commands executed by a configuration application in a configuration array of the RAID subsystem accessible to the configuration application via the block I/O path.

Stallmo does not teach or suggest each of the foregoing features. For example, Stallmo does not teach both "processing user data access commands executed by a user application in a user data array of the RAID subsystem accessible to the user application by a block input/output (I/O) path, the block I/O path comprising one or more programs

configured to interface the user data array to the user application" and " processing configuration commands executed by a configuration application in a configuration array of the RAID subsystem accessible to the configuration application via the block I/O path."

Because Stallmo does not teach or suggest each and every element of claim 8, it cannot anticipate that claim. Accordingly, the Examiner's rejection of claim 8 is traversed and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn. Furthermore, since each of claims 9-14 depend from claim 8 (and therefore include each and every feature of claim 8), Stallmo does not teach or suggest every feature of each of those claims. Therefore, Applicant also respectfully requests that the Examiner's rejection of claims 9-14 be withdrawn in light of the remarks made above.

Claim 15, as currently amended, recites:

A configurable Redundant Array of Independent Disks (RAID) subsystem, comprising:
a user data array for processing user data access commands executed by a user application;
a configuration array for processing configuration commands executed by a configuration application; and
a single block input/output (I/O) path, the block I/O path comprising one or more programs configured to interface the user data array to the user application and the configuration array to the configuration application.

Stallmo does not teach or suggest each of the foregoing features. For example, Stallmo does not teach "a single block input/output (I/O) path, the block I/O path comprising one or more programs configured to interface the user data array to the user application and the configuration array to the configuration application."

Because Stallmo does not teach or suggest each and every element of claim 15, it cannot anticipate that claim. Accordingly, the Examiner's rejection of claim 15 is traversed and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn. Furthermore, since each of claims 16-18 depend from claim 15 (and therefore include each and every feature of claim 15), Stallmo does not teach or suggest every feature of each of those claims. Therefore, Applicant also respectfully requests that the Examiner's rejection of claims 16-18 be withdrawn in light of the remarks made above.

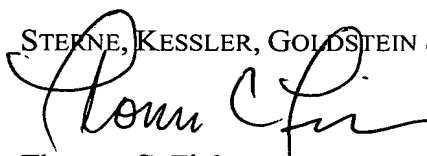
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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